

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3780
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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FOR AID AND AF/W

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, SOCI, SPOP, PINT, TPHY, BENC, OVIP, NI
SUBJECT: NEW CAPITAL: MORE USG INVOLVEMENT SOUGHT/EBONG OUT

REF: STATE 220997 AND PREVIOUS

1. FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) CHAIRMAN
M. AJOSE-ADEOGAN SUMMONED EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 1T TO PROVIDE ADVANCE
WORD OF CDA INTENTION SEEK MORE USG INVOLVEMENT IN CAPITAL
PROJECT, TO STRESS URGENCY OF DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY DATA PROCESSING AND
TO INTRODUCE AS NEW CDA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MR. I. AKADE IN PLACE
OF I. J. EBONG, WHO HAS BEEN ELECTED TO NIGERIA'S CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY.

2. MAKING A POINT WE HAVE HEARD BEFORE, CHAIRMAN SAID FEDERAL
MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG) WANTS NEW CAPITAL PROJECT TOO FAR
ADVANCED FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP WHEN IT TAKES OFFICE
IN 1979. EG ASKED EMBOFF TO TRANSMIT SINCERE FMG THANKS FOR
ASSISTANCE TO DATE AND EXPRESSED HOPE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
COOPERATION CAN CONTINUE AND EXPAND. HE LISTED TWO SPECIFICS:

A) CDA HOPES ENGAGE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) FOR
LONGER-TERM WORK AND WILL MAKE FORMAL APPROACH SOON. (COMMENT:
THIS COULD ENTAIL REVISION OF CURRENT USGS-CDA AGREEMENT BUT
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INITIATIVE SHOULD BE LEFT TO NIGERIANS.)

B) CDA ALSO HOPES OBTAIN STAFFING ASSISTANCE FROM NATIONAL
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION, WHOSE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHARLES
CONRAD, SERVED ON CDA'S MASRAR PLANNER EVALUATION PANEL IN JANUARY.

3. AJOSE-ADEOGUN SAID HE WILL MAKE FORMAL REQUESTS CONCERNING
ABOVE. HE WISHES TO FOLLOW UP WITH VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN LATE

OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, ACCOMPANIED BY THREE OR FOUR TOP CDA OFFICIALS. PURPOSE WILL BE TO INTRODUCE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND ARCHITECT-PLANNER TO U.S. CONTACTS AND GIVE THEM FIRST-HAND LOOK AT SUCH NEW TOWNS AS WASHINGTON ITSELF, RESTON AND COLUMBIA. DURING VISIT CDA OFFICIALS WILL ALSO CONFER WITH USGS, CENSUS BUREAU, INTERNATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATES (MASTER PLANNERS) AND CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION. (COMMENT: B FR PROTOCOL PURPOSES, CHAIRMAN IS EQUIVALENT OF COMMISSIONER OR MINISTER; EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EQUATES TO PERMANENT SECRETARY, THE TOP CIVIL SERVANT IN A MINISTRY.)

4. CHAIRMAN MADE NO COMMENT IN INTRODUCING AKADE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND EBONG'S RELATIONS WITH CHAIRMAN AND CDA BOARD HAVE BEEN TROUBLED; HAD HE NOT WON ELECTION TO ASSEMBLY EBONG WOULD HAVE BECOME PRIVATE CONSULTANT. LIKE EBONG, AKADE IS VETERAN CIVIL SERVANT BUT LACKS EBONG'S LONG EXPERIENCE WITH USGS AKADE HAS LONG TENURE WITH MINISTRY OF ESTABLISHMENTS (CIVIL SERVICE) AND WAS MOST RECENTLY WITH CABINET OFFICE.

5. ON DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY PROCESSING, CHAIRMAN HOPED CENSUS BUREAU (EUCEN) WOULD GIVE IT HIGHEST POSSIBLE PRIORITY TO ENABLE MASTER PLANNERS COMPLETE FIRST PHASE ON SCHEDULE NEXT JULY. HE SAID CDA HAD NOWHERE TO TURN EXCEPT BUCEN. MEETING PRECEDED RECEIPT OF REFTEL, WHICH ENABLED EMBOFF GIVE PROMPT AND POSITIVE REPLY TO CDA SEPTEMBER 16.
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6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY FEELS USG COOPERATION WITH CDA WHENEVER POSSIBLE IS IN OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND URGES POSITIVE APPROACH TO SPECIFIC REQUESTS. PLEASE ADVISE USGS, BUCEN AND MR. CONRAD OF PLANNING COMMISSION OF FORTHCOMING REQUESTS AND EBONG'S REPLACEMENT. BECHTEL AND POSSIBLY OTHER COMMERCIAL FIRMS WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF EBONG'S DEPARTURE.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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